Standard Data Element for Date

The State/EPA data standard was approved by the Environmental Protection Agency on January 20, 1999 and by the Environmental Data Standards Council on May 31, 2000.

Standard Data Elements for Date					
Use Text	DE ID	Data Element Name	Data Element Definition	Notes	Format and Code Set Indicator
	5432:1	Date	A particular day of a calendar year.	Length: 8 characters	DATE (YYYYMMDD); No

1. **Purpose**

    a.   This standard provides for a consistent numeric representation of calendar date to facilitate interchange of date data among information systems.

2. **Applicability**

    a.   This standard is applicable for representation of date in data files for data interchange.

    b.   This standard is not applicable to the physical, or logical storage of date data *within* commercial database management systems, or other software products.

3. **Data Transfer Format**

    a.   Calendar date data is represented as an eight-digit sequence, composed of numeric characters in the format YYYYMMDD, where YYYY represents the calendar year, MM represents the calendar month of the year, and DD represents the calendar day of the month, sequenced from high order to low order (i.e. year, month, day, from left to right, as shown above).

    b.   The numbers that represent month of year and day of the month shall include leading zeros whenever their respective values contain only one digit.

    c.   No separators are used between the time elements for the interchange of date.

4. **Processing**

   a. Information systems must include the intelligence to accurately process dates into and beyond the year 2000.

   b. Calculations that determine and process leap years must be accurate.

   c. Date data that are output for data interchange must be in the data transfer format specified above.

   d. Information systems must have the capability to accept the data transfer format specified above for date as input from data interchange.

5. **References**

   a. American National Standard Representation for Calendar Date and Ordinal Date for Information Interchange, X3.30-1997, American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

   b. Federal Information Processing Standards Publications (FIPS PUB) 4-2,Representation of Calendar Date and Ordinal Date for Information Interchange; 1998. This version of the FIPS replaces FIPS PUB 4.1 and fully adopts ANSI X3.30-1997.

   c. ISO 8601, Data elements and interchange formats -- Information interchange C Representation of dates and times. International Organization for Standards, First Edition 1988-06-15 (currently under revision).